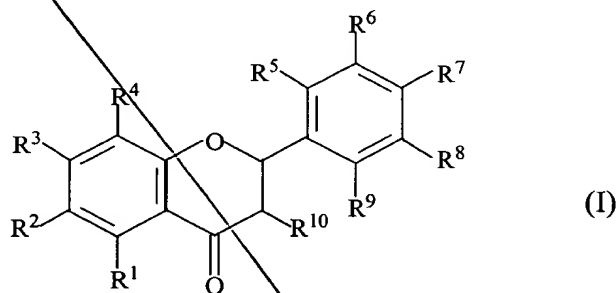


Please cancel the previous version of claim 1 and rewrite it as follows.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.121, the following is a clean copy of the rewritten claim. A marked-up version of claim 1 is attached as a separate sheet.

1. (Thrice Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising:
- (a) 0.00005 to 10 wt % of polymethoxyflavone represented by formula (I):



wherein each of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , and R^{10} is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, hydroxyl group, alkoxy group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, alkenyl group having 2 to 20 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group having 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a sugar residue, and at least four of R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 , R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , R^8 , R^9 , and R^{10} are methoxy groups; (b) 0.01 to 10 wt % of a whitening agent selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acid and its salts or esters, kojic acid, hydroquinone, placental extracts, ellagic acid, and mixtures thereof; and

(c) the remainder being a base consisting essentially of water and at least one selected from the group consisting of lower alcohols, polyhydric alcohols, hydrocarbon oils, natural fats, natural oils, synthetic triglycerides, ester oils, waxes, polysiloxanes, oils, anionic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, semipolar surfactants, water soluble polymers, organic salts, inorganic salts, anti-inflammatory agents, pH regulators, germicidal agents, chelating agents, antioxidants, ultra violet absorbers, pigments, and fragrances.

Please add the following new claims 15-18 as follows:

--15. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymethoxyflavone is obtained

by a method comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant of the Genus Citrus of the Family Rutaceae to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 1,3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in ethyl acetate, adding water thereto, stirring, separating into layers, removing a water layer, and distilling off the ethyl acetate to obtain a dry solid product (S2); and

dissolving the dry solid product (S2) in a solvent, and subjecting it to liquid column chromatography.

16. The composition of claim 15, wherein the liquid column chromatography uses silica gel and/or alumina as a filler and a mixed solution of hexane/ethanol in a volume proportion of 70/30 to 97/3 as an eluent.

17. The composition of claim 1, wherein the polymethoxyflavone is obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

subjecting peel of a plant of the Genus Citrus of the Family Rutaceae to extraction with at least one solvent selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, propanol, butanol, ethyl acetate, acetone, propylene glycol, and 1,3-butylene glycol to obtain an extract (S1);

dissolving the extract (S1) in hexane and/or chloroform, removing a precipitate, distilling off the hexane and/or chloroform to obtain a dry solid product (S3); and